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FOR PGM/RC, PGM/P, PGM/FW, PGM/FN, VOA NEWS/CA

SECSTATE FOR ARA

EO 12065: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: U. S. A PERUVIAN COOPERATION AGAINST DRUGS

1. PERU'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY, INDEPENDENT "EL COMERCIO", PUBLISHED AUGUST 27 AN EDITORIAL PRAISING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO PERU IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE. THE EDITORIAL NOTED THAT, "THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTRIBUTE THE IMPORTANT SUM OF (20 MILLION DOLLARS) TO COMBAT DRUG ADDICTION IN OUR COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, EDWIN G. CORR, REFERRING TO THE AGREEMWNT WHICH WILL BE SIGNED SOON BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND OURS. THE IMPORTANT GRANT, ACCOMPANIES TWO OTHERS WITH THE SAME ENDS: ONE WITH THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR CONCERNING COOPERATION AGAINST DRUGS AND THE OTHER WITH THE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF THE JUNGLE, FOR 300 THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR STUDIES RELATED TO SUBSTITUTION OF OTHER CROPS FOR COCA IN THE UPPER HUALLAGA AREA.

2. "AS CAN BE SEEN, THIS IS IMPORTANT ASSISTANCE TO AID THE CAMPAIGN TO HELP OUR NATION ERRADICATE THE SCOURGE WHICH PUNISHES HUMANITY (AND) OF WHICH OUR COUNTRY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT VICTIMS.
THE CLANDESTINE COMMERCE IN DRUGS AND THEIR ADDICTION HAS REACHED ALARMING PROPORTIONS IN THE WORLD; TO THE POINT WHERE GOVERNMENTS CONSIDER IT TODAY, IN THEIR SOCIAL CAMPAIGNS, THE MOST IMPORTANT.

3. "A CAMPAIGN OF THIS SORT REPRESENTS, NATURALLY, A MAJOR EFFORT ON THE PART OF (PERU) AND DEMANDS THE EFFORTS OF ALL SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY. IT IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF COMBATING POWERFUL CRIMINAL GROUPS WHICH HAVE HUGE SUMS OF MONEY (AND) WHO CAN COUNT, IN NOT A FEW CASES, ON LENIENT TREATMENT FROM A BADLY ADMINISTERED JUSTICE OR THE COMPLICITY OF MISGUIDED FUNCTIONARIES. AND ABOVE ALL ON A NATURAL ALLY: POLITICAL TERRORISM.

4. "FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS THE AGREEMENTS WITH THE U. S. ARE OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE.
OF IMPORTANCE TO BOTH COUNTRIES: AN INESTIMABLE CONTRIBUTION TO HUMANITY AGAINST WHOM THE CRIMINAL GROUPS OF DRUG TRAFFICKERS DIRECT THEIR VICE AND FOR WHOM WE MUST WORK TO LIBERATE THEM FROM THIS STRUGGLE."

EOT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY E B Rowell DATE 1/22/83
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TS AUTH. REASON (S)
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